



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008

Iraqi Police Making Waves

HADITHA DAM — The Euphrates River fulfills many of the economic needs for the people of Iraq. For all of its advantages though, it does create a challenge for the Iraqi Police (IP) who are in charge of security for the area.

To remedy this situation, Sailors with Riverine Squadron 3, Riverine Detachment 2, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 have been holding classes for the IP on basic seamanship.

"We are teaching them the basics so when we leave they will be able to take over patrolling the river," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason H. Gialenes, 24, from Huntington Beach, Calif., who is a gunner and instructor with Riverine Squadron 3.

The policemen in the class came from all over western al-Anbar province to learn everything from knot tying to boat maneuvers as they learn to adapt their police knowledge to aquatic patrolling. For many of the policemen, the 21-day class is their first experience working on boats.

"They are already police officers, so

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Two rubber boats zip around Lake Qadisiyah as U.S. Sailors and Iraqi Police practice basic seamanship and boating skills during an aquatic patrolling course, Oct. 4, 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul M. Torres, 1st Marine Division Public Affairs.

This Week in News ...

Tactical Course Builds Iraqi Airmen

Patrol Base Now Under Iraqi Control



Gen. Ray Odierno: Washington Post Interview, Oct. 12

Reconstruction Report: The Latest from USACE.

AFN's Iraqi Freedom Minute: Visit the Video Archives



Rusafa 'Sons of Iraq' Now Under GOI Control

FOB LOYALTY — Government of Iraq (GOI) officials and Coalition Soldiers recently gathered at Forward Operating Base Volunteer in the Rusafa district of eastern Baghdad to transfer responsibility of the 'Sons of Iraq' (SOI) over to the GOI.

Iraqi officials, Iraqi security forces (ISF) and members of the Sons of Iraq invited Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad to the Iraqi Army headquarters in order to officially sign over responsibility of the Sons of Iraq to the GOI.

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Students from the Jawala'la School in the Jamilla neighborhood of the Sadr City district of Baghdad smile and wave before entering their refurbished school, Oct. 9, 2008. Photo by Sgt. Zachary, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs.

School's in Session in Sadr City

BAGHDAD — “I think education is the greatest weapon in the people’s hands,” said Buad Abdul Sadr, the senior engineer in charge of refurbishing the Jawala’la school in Sadr City.

Schools are now in session in Sadr City, an area that six months ago was home to some of the fiercest fighting here. The rooms that children now fill at this school in northeastern Baghdad were once home to militia fighters who would daily launch attacks against the government of Iraq, Iraqi security and Coalition forces.

Now, after two months of work by Buad and his crew, the Jawala’la school and its 12 classrooms are filled with students wearing new uniforms provided by the Modern Sewing Company in the neighboring Adhamiyah District.

“Now we are able to send our children to school to get educated. Before we were not able to send them to the schools and

now we can,” said Ali Sewadi, a member of the Sadr City District Advisory Council.

Sewadi and other members of the District Council as well as the Iraqi Army’s 3rd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, 11th Division, helped hand out backpacks and uniforms to the school children during a visit there, Oct. 9.

“I think, the children when you give them something, they are very happy,” said Raya Suhad Alani, the Women’s Committee chairman for the Sadr City DAC, who also helped organize the uniform delivery for the students.

Once fighting in Sadr City diminished in May, one of the first steps taken was to identify the schools in the area and their condition. The Jawala’la School was one of the first visited by the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is currently attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th

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Industrial Zone Opens Two New Facilities in Balad

JOINT BASE BALAD — “There’s an excitement here... and that’s exactly what we need.”

That is the message sent to Coalition forces, local Iraqi government and business owners, and Iraqi press representatives by Brig. Gen. Nicholas Matern, deputy commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, near the end of a much anticipated media day here.

The Canadian flag officer thanked 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers and base Airmen for supporting local Iraqi government and helping business leaders forge new economic opportunities.

Matern, along with other high-ranking Coalition officials, made the trip to JBB to attend ceremonies celebrating the opening of two new facilities: an Iraqi-based Industrial Zone (IBIZ) asphalt plant and a business center to respond to administrative needs of local Iraqi businesses.

The IBIZ asphalt facility will provide employment for scores of Iraqis, particularly members of the Sons of Iraq that are standing down in wake of

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Moments in Time: Still Images from the Military’s Best Photographers



A U.S. Soldier talks to the owners of a '57 Chevrolet in eastern Baghdad, Oct. 9, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Lehnhardt.



Marines and Sailors swim in the Arabian Sea while aboard USS Iwo Jima, Oct. 5, 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob Chase.



A boy works out a problem on the blackboard at the Jawala’la School in Sadr City, Oct. 9, 2008. Photo by Sgt. Zachary Mott.